

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

ANDY GIPSON COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Agriculture Commissioner Andy Gipson Promotes Mississippi Christmas Trees

JACKSON, Miss. – As the holidays approach, Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson encourages those celebrating to make this year a "Genuine Mississippi" Christmas by purchasing a Mississippi Christmas tree.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce has made it easy for shoppers to find the perfect Mississippi Christmas tree this holiday season at MSChristmasTrees.com online. The website, part of the Genuine MS® state branding program, provides a guide to the types of Christmas trees grown in the state and the locations of Mississippi Christmas tree farms where locally grown trees can be purchased.

"As families prepare for the holidays, I encourage them to visit one of the 32 Christmas tree farms in the state. It's an experience the whole family will enjoy and selecting a Genuine MS® Christmas tree supports our Mississippi farmers, as well as the local and state economies," said Commissioner Gipson. "Consumers can also find an array of other Mississippi products for the holiday season from stocking stuffers and gift ideas to ingredients for special holiday meals at GenuineMS.com online."

For those who have never owned a Christmas tree or need tips for caring for a tree, <u>MSChristmasTrees.com</u> explains how to select the best Christmas tree for your family, how to safely care for a Christmas tree and how to dispose of your Christmas tree after the holidays.

Visit our Genuine MS® Facebook page for details on an upcoming announcement for a holiday contest to win a Genuine MS® gift basket. Consumers can also find a variety of products grown, raised, crafted and made in Mississippi at GenuineMS.com. Visit MSChristmasTrees.com to find the nearest Christmas tree farm and view videos.